SOME REASONS Humbly Propoſed to the Officers of the Army,

For the ſpeedy Re-admiſſion

OF THE

Long Parliament

VVho ſetled the

GOVERNMENT

In the way of a

FREE--STATE.

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SUTRO

Some REASONS *humbly propoſed to the* Officers of the Army, *for the ſpeedy Re-admiſſion of the* Long Parliament, *who ſetled the* Government *in the way of a* Free-State.

Firſt, Becauſe the preſent great Neceſſities and Preſſures of the *Army* and *Navie* do require it, there being no other viſible legal Authority for raiſing Money to pay them, and to ſatisfie the vaſt Debts, and defray the Charge of this Commonwealth: If Money ſhould be raiſed in an *Unparliamentary* way, it will but more enrage the People and come ſhort of expectation, as to the comfortable ſubſiſtence of the *Army* and *Navie*. And although there may be ſome *Inconveniencies* in this Way which is propoſed, yet there will be far more Inconveniencies (in the judgment of unbyaſſed perſons) in any other way which can be thought of by the *Politicians* of the Times: And till we have a better *Model* we ſhould (for the preſent) acquieſce in this: none of thoſe *Models*, which were framed ſince the Interruption of the long *Parliament*, having proved effectual.

Secondly, Whereas ſome engaged Perſons are ſtill harping upon the *Petition and Advice*, as if that were a thing *Practicable*; It will be found by wofull experience to be a meer *Chimæra*, and no way uſefull ſince the Diſſolution of the late *Parliament*: Nor can ſuch a *Parliament* be ſummoned (by virtue of the *Petition and Advice*) as will in humane probability Secure and endempnifie the *Army*, and maintain the *Good Old Cauſe*, and our Liberties, Religious and Civil; Conſidering the preſent Juncture of our Affairs, the ſeverall Factions that are in theſe Nations, and the great ſpeed and expedition that is required in ſetling the Government of this *Commonwealth*; Severall parties watching for an opportunity to raiſe Combuſtions, as hoping to advance themſelves and ſupplant others.

Thirdly, Becauſe it is the generall Deſire and Expectation of moſt of the Officers and Souldiers of the *Army*, and of thoſe well-affected perſons in the City and (parts adjacent, who have adhered to the Parliaments Cauſe in the greateſt Turnings and Revolutions) that the long *Parliament*, who ſat after the Death of the King, ſhould be reſtored to the Government of this *Commonwealth*; That Parliament and this Army, (together with other well-affected perſons) being equally concerned and ingaged in proceeding againſt the late *King* and his Houſe of *Lords*, and in reſolving the Government of theſe Nati-

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ons into a *Free-State* or Commonwealth, ſo that if they divide one from another, and do not joyntly Act (in their ſeverall Stations and Capacities) in the further proſecution of the *Good Old Cauſe*, they cannot long ſubſiſt, but muſt needs ruine themſelves, together with the Peace and Liberties of theſe three Nations.

Fourthly, Although the Members of that *Parliament* were ſubject to many perſonal weakneſſes and miſcarriages (as thoſe men alſo are by whom they are prejudged and condemned) yet it cannot rationally be conceived that any other *Aſſembly* or Convention that hath the face of Parliamentary Authority, will be more tender of the Armies Security and Indempnity, and of Liberty and freedom in the things of God relating to the Conſcience; or that any other *Parliament* or Aſſembly (having the Legiſlative Authority of this Commonwealth will be more able and fit to bear the great weight and burthen of *Government*, conſidering our preſent Domeſtick Diſtractions and the great Changes ſhortly like to be in Forraign Affairs, by reaſon of the League between *France* and *Spain*: For it is not ſufficient (eſpecially as our Caſe ſtands) that thoſe who ſit at the Stern and have the Management of publick Matters, be pious and well-affected perſons, but they ſhould alſo be judicious and prudent perſons of great skill and experience in State affairs, all being little enough to extricat us out of our

present difficulties, and to establish an equal and righteous *Government* for the satisfaction of the People and the benefit of posterity.

Fifthly, If this *Army* do not forthwith restore the Long *Parliament*, to the exercise of the Government of this Commonwealth, it will not appear to honest impartial men, that they have done this late action as aiming at the publick good, and the liberty and safety of their Native Country; but rather to advance themselves higher, or some of their great Officers, that they may be in a fuller capacity to rule us in a *Military* way; and by that means, quite to *enervate* and destroy the Civil *Legislative* Authority of this *Commonwealth*: For if they should go about to patch up a Government, and mingle together the *Martiall* and *Civil* Power, and should contend for a Family or personall Interest (against which the Lord doth still witnesse by his Providence) it may well be thought that their design is to support their own greatnesse, and to deprive the people of their due Rights and Liberties, to the utter ruine of this *Commonwealth*.

Sixthly, If the Long *Parliament* be not speedily called, the *Army*, and good people of these Nations, are like to be more divided and rent into factions and parties, many, yea, most of them that adhered to the *Good Old Cause* in *Army*, City, and Country, looking at the Re-admission

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of the Long *Parliament* (as your Affairs ſtand) to be the only means and expedient under God to prevent further War and Bloudſhed, to unite the Army, and make due proviſion for their Pay, to give ſome reviving to the *Good Old Cauſe*, to reſtore in ſome meaſure the Trade of the Nation (which is much damped by this late turn) and withall to terrifie the implacable Enemies of this *Common-wealth*, and ſuch as would enſlave us, under what pretence ſoever.

Seventhly, The Providence of God ſeemeth directly to point at, and lead to this Expedient, all other Attempts having proved ineffectual. The laſt Parliament having ſufficiently diſcovered the ſordid, ſlaviſh, and impoſing Spirit of many in the Nation, their deſperate Enmity to the *Army*, and the Aſſerters of *Publick Liberty*, when they ſaw they would not (together with themſelves) ſacrifice our Civil Rights and Liberties, heighten the Court Party and Intereſt, and make way for Domination over good mens Conſciences in *Religious Concernments*: And now the Providence of God hath ſo ordered, that a very *Conſiderable* number of the Members of the *Long Parliament* are in *Town*, who we hope will be ready to ſerve their Country in this *Criſis* of danger, though upon far greater diſadvantages (the Nation being reduced to exceeding great ſtraits) than when they formerly ſat in Parliament; and if you ſhould neglect this opportuni-

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ty, which is now put into your hands, who knows whether ever you shall have the like again?

And, whereas some may object and fear, that the Long Parliament (if they meet again) will *perpetuate* themselves in the *Legislative* Authority of this Commonwealth. Besides, that this will appear *impracticable*, if we consider the *Ballance* and *Spirit* of the Nation; It may well be thought that the *Army* (having re-called their old Officers, who cannot endure to hear of a *perpetual Parliament*) will not suffer them to sit for ever: And if in case those things which have been done since the Interruption of the Long Parliament, be just and good, doubtlesse they ought not to be revoked, but confirmed; and accordingly, we hope, they shall be confirmed, whoever were instrumentall therein. But if otherwise the late *Transactions*, or some of them, be prejudicial to the Publick Weal of these Nations, there is no honest man but will heartily desire a Revocation thereof; And in this case, what better Security and Indempnity can there be than a general *Act of Oblivion*, which will be cheerfully granted?

FINIS.